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One Clear Call

**AN EXPLANATION
and A REMINDER**

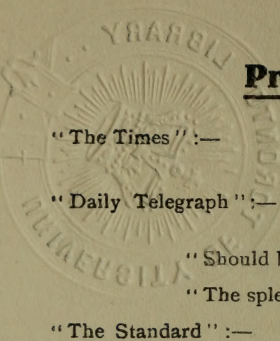
**By
Henry Allen Ashton**

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One Clear Call.



I WANT to say a few words to those of my countrymen—and I am proud to be able to call every man, British-born or of British nationality, a countryman of mine—who are eligible to join their brothers—for we are all brothers in loyalty and nationality—who are so bravely and gallantly fighting, not alone for the preservation of our national honour, not only for the continuance of our blessed freedom, but for very existence itself.

I want to say a few words not because I think I can say them better than anyone else, but being ineligible, no use in actual warfare, I have dared to usurp the right and privilege that belong to others more competent and better qualified, in an attempt which I trust will be attended with some measure of success, to bring home more clearly to those more fortunately placed than myself the glorious opportunity which now awaits them on the field of battle.

Every man and woman, every little child, can do something. All the people I have met *are* doing something, but amongst our many millions there must be a number of young men who are eligible for enlistment in Lord Kitchener's Army to whom, perhaps, the case has not been put in a way that has

forcibly appealed to them. Personally, I do not believe in the indiscriminate if patriotic efforts of those who go about "decorating" with white feathers and interrogating at random. Indeed, I will even go so far as to assert that, apart from mistakes which are bound to occur, such as selecting convalescents and those who are physically unfit, this instrument of semi-compulsion is undignified to the wielder and degrading to the man who, as I have already stated, may not have had the matter put before him in a convincing way.

I have heard platform speakers say hard words, I have read some bitter epithets about those who have not yet taken up arms, but I have also read the inspiring things which the King has said and the elevating words which Lord Kitchener has written, and there I find no trace of resentment—nothing but thanks and gratitude to those who have already come forward.

Ill, then, would it become me to raise one word against those who have not yet decided to do that which in the old days their fathers would have done, and their fathers' fathers in the time before them.

After all, it is a momentous step to take, yet one to be taken contrary to our British practice of carefully thinking important matters over before acting upon them. Little wonder, then, if numbers of men in comfortable, or at least fairly comfortable, circumstances, and happy and contented in their surroundings, have hesitated before answering that forceful appeal placarded everywhere, advertised all over the country, "Your King and Country Need You."

It is to those to whom, maybe, even yet, an overwhelmingly clear case has not been made out—the fact that their presence is absolutely needed at the front without any delay—that I address these lines, fully confident that if I can successfully bring home the fact that this Great War is a war of life and death, waged by the enemy against liberty and civilisation, against all the forces of justice and honour, against property and life, there will be few eligible men remaining in the country.

* * * *

The enemy is powerful and dangerous. The Kaiser, the fountain-head of the enemy, is the arch-tyrant of the Universe; the greatest the world has ever yet known. The most dangerous tyrant is not merely the man who is in himself dangerous, but the man who has the power and desire to make those beneath him equally dangerous to their subordinates, so that tyranny increases and multiplies till it ravages a whole nation, every individual becoming a slave to his superior and a tyrant to all his inferiors.

That is the hydra-headed monster with whom no nation in the world is really friendly—victimised Austria is paying the price of Shame and Dishonour.

It is not my purpose even to summarise the causes, originated so many years ago, which have led up to or been responsible for the war. Neither will I bore readers with elaborate statistics or abstruse calculations, with economic or political questions—I will get straight to the point in my endeavour to show why it is essential that every man able to go to the front should do so at once—immediately—without thought of self, without regard to the future.

The crux of the whole matter is that the German war exists to-day. The Kaiser has termed our Expeditionary Force "French's contemptible little army." Judging from the phenomenal success already achieved by our mere handful of soldiers, against whom, by "Imperial and Royal Command," the Prussian legions were violently hurled, it is safe to presume that **had our numerical strength even approached fifty per cent. of that of the enemy, the entire German army operating in the West would to-day have been shattered.**

But to return to the eligibles, who may be weighing the pros and cons, debating the matter in their own minds as though it were a commercial proposition instead of an urgent necessity. Before laying down tools or giving up regular employment, questions which, amongst others, undoubtedly arise are: *Is the war from the British standpoint a just war? What will there be in store for me when I return home? Will it make any difference in the end whether I volunteer or not—I, who have had no training, and have never handled a rifle in my life?*

Well, volumes have been published by the dozen, articles penned by the score, men of every grade of politics, every religious denomination, have spoken testifying conclusively that never since the world began has any country or nation embarked upon a war with a nobler object. Nevertheless, it behoves me to state in as few words as possible the immediate events which precipitated the Declaration of War by this country.

A Servian assassin had committed what was without doubt a foul crime, and this was seized upon

by Germany as a pretext for the war for which she had been incessantly and industriously preparing for so long. Turkey, one of the Balkan States, a port in Northern Africa—either one would have done as well; but Serbia happened to be in difficulties with Austria-Hungary at the moment, the heir to the throne having been the victim of the assassination, and so she was made the match with which Germany has set half Europe alight.

The Kaiser and the Prussian War Lords knew when our latest Naval Programme was accepted by the country that in a year or two Great Britain's supremacy on sea would be unchallengeable. Hence Germany realised that she must strike at once or never, for her *boasted conquest of the world*.*

Austria naturally demanded compensation of Serbia, as was only just, and had that country put forward her own legitimate demands they would without doubt have been readily accepted. But Germany herself imposed the terms which she knew were wholly impossible of acceptance by any country possessed of a shred of honour or ounce of dignity, and she gave Austria, her captive ally, plainly to understand that if she did not peremptorily insist on every demand, she, Germany, to use a rough expression, would smash her ramshackle old kingdom into smithereens. That is why the German Ambassador informed Sir Edward Grey that Austria could not

* "To Germany a fleet is merely a means to an end, and that end . . . is the destruction of the British Empire, the disruption of the French Republic, and the domination of the world."—A. Hurd, *Fortnightly Review*, XCI., New Series 785.

consent to arbitration or permit the interference of a third party. I fervently believe that the so-called "Servian" crime was actually hatched in Berlin, and the responsible murderers were Germans in high places.*

Knowing Germany could do what she threatened, Austria was compelled to yield, or rather—for no one can ever again speak of a nation being forced to yield when it remembers Belgium—Austria thought it politic to obey. Now the terms of compensation meant the constitutional extinction of little Servia. This, as I have shown, was what Germany intended, not because she desired to crush Servia, but because she was aware that Russia, with whom for centuries she had been at enmity, a Slav nationality, like Servia, could not possibly sit still and see her own race constitutionally exterminated, and would therefore come to the rescue. That furnished the motive for Germany's entry into the field of conflict. Aus-

* "Mr. Class, the President of the Pan-Germanic League, is prepared to state upon oath before this Court (a Court of Law in Germany) that the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Herr von Kiderlen Wächter, writing to him from Kissingen, requested Mr. Class to meet him at the Hotel Pfälzer Hof, in Mannheim. During the interview, Herr von Kiderlen Wächter stated: 'You can absolutely rely on it that the Government will stick to Morocco. M. Cambon is wriggling before me like a worm. The German Government is in a splendid position. . . .' On the 1st July, the Under Secretary said to Mr. Class: 'To-day the *Panther* appears before Agadir. . . . The German Government has sent two *agents provocateurs* to Agadir, and these have done their duty very well. German firms have been induced to make complaints, and to call upon the Government in Berlin for protection. It is the Government's intention to seize the district.' . . ."—*Fortnightly Review*, XCI., New Series 462.

tria was her ally, and when war was made upon her it was her bounden duty to assist her. But there was also a counter Dual Alliance, and Germany knew, of course, that if Russia were attacked France would support her, but here she imagined—at all events for the present—entries would cease. Her strategical position with facilities of communication, for provisioning, obtaining supplies of ammunition, and so forth was as admirably adapted as it was geographically situated to strike at France and Russia at one and the same time, if necessary.

The only difficulty which was already looming on the horizon was how to stave off Great Britain until her next door neighbours had been successfully disposed of. Russia, Germany considered bankrupt, despite her enormous resources, and her big war chest. She was a vast, unwieldy, cumbersome nation, undermined with anarchy and nihilism—Why, there would be a revolution soon after war broke out. And France? Was there not already a plot, hatched in the very Cabinet, to secure the overthrow of the President himself? The French were a volatile race, the army a sentimental one, and the soldiers, like all sentimentalists, were unstable in temperament. A signal success would lift them to the heights of Olympus, but a severe and quick defeat would paralyse them so far as further fighting was concerned. Besides—greatest of all—France was unprepared for war, and Germany, following her precedent of 1870, intended to swoop down upon her without a second's delay. Once France was beaten to her knees—about a month's time, according to programme—Germany would be in Paris. One thousand

million pounds sterling (not francs), according to an inspired German organ, was to be the price of peace, besides the annexation of her navy. Russia, who would scarcely have finished mobilising, could be attacked within her own borders, and comparatively easily brought to reason. A little more internal warfare, and then for England--the real objective.

It was all so beautifully mapped out with such consummate skill and ability, with such clockwork regularity, but unfortunately without any loophole or safeguard in the event of anything not turning out exactly as Germany expected.

Never was the old adage, "Man Proposes, God Disposes" exemplified in a more startling manner. The very thing which Germany desired most of all to avoid, until she had disposed of both France and Russia--open conflict with Great Britain--came about with dramatic suddenness.

Without the slightest warning Germany invaded Luxembourg and threw her troops across the Belgian frontier, a country whose strict neutrality she had herself, in conjunction with Great Britain and other Powers, guaranteed under seal. Belgium, from a military standpoint, was a negligible factor in German schemes, though strategically of fundamental importance, and the Prussian Imperial Chancellor became white-hot with uncontrollable passion when he was informed by our Ambassador, Sir Edward Goschen, that we valued what they called scraps of paper infinitely more than we feared armed aggression. So they were given the one, the only alternative, to evacuate immediately that portion of Belgium into

which they had penetrated—"peaceful penetration" has always been a favourite game of Germany's*—and give an undertaking to respect the compact they had violated or have war declared upon them.

To this demand Germany sent an insolent rejoinder, which the Premier rightly characterised as a most infamous proposal. It was to the effect that if we held aloof, her Navy would only attack France on the defenceless coasts of her western shores, arrange with Belgium, pay any just compensation, and agree not to rob her of any of her territory. As to attacking the colonies of France and other little matters, nothing could be stated, no agreement given. To proceed through Belgium was of incalculable benefit to Germany. It effected a saving of millions of money, and what, at that moment, was all-important, a great saving of time. In fact, the question of time was everything.

This was the final cause which led to this country's rupture with Germany: the violation of a sacred treaty obligation to preserve the neutrality of Belgium—but interpreted in Berlin as England's

A Hundred Years Ago :—

"The Paris papers, recently arrived, contain the intelligence of the union of Saxony to Prussia. . . . It has fallen into the hands of Prussia, the most rapacious State on the Continent, which has always taken advantage of the weakness of its neighbours to further in some pitiful way its own interest. It now possesses Silesia, which it stole from Austria—it was the most active power in the aggressions against Poland—it seized Dantzic in violation of treaty, without provocation or a shadow of right, and it did not disdain to receive Hanover from that great master in political arrangements, the Emperor Napoleon."—"Champion," November 20th, 1814.

treachery in trying to enforce the conditions of an obsolete agreement in order to wage war upon her.*

Was not the cause a just one, you in whose mind this question may have arisen? Could you, could anyone, conceive a higher aim, a loftier purpose than Great Britain's in determining to fight in defence of the right of a country too weak to enforce it alone?

To the German Chancellor—in fact, to the whole Prussian Hierarchy—deeds, agreements, treaties, promises to pay, are merely scraps of paper to be honoured or disavowed according to the exigency of the moment. You have only to set up necessity and to assert that it has no laws and you are perfectly justified in repudiating all your obligations and entirely disclaiming every liability and responsibility.

The Kaiser has told his people that he has a divine mandate.† Yet the Bible is “merely” the Word of God. Does he imagine that the One Whose

* “Every Government takes solely its own interests as the standard of its actions, however it may drape them with deductions of justice or sentiment. . . . My belief is that no one does anything . . . unless he can at the same time serve his own interests.”—Bismarck: *Reflections and Reminiscences*. English translation, A. J. Butler. New York and London, 1899; pp. 173 and 202.

† “La Liberté” states that the Kaiser has issued the following proclamation to his Eastern army:—

“Remember who you are. The Holy Spirit has descended on me, because I am the Emperor of the Germans. I am the instrument of the Most High. I am His sword, His representative. Woe and death to those who resist my will! Woe and death to those who do not believe in my mission! Woe and death to cowards! Let all enemies of the Germans perish! God demands their destruction, God who through me commands you to fulfil His will.”

Ordinances he professes to obey would recall one syllable of His Word? Therefore when the German Emperor calls upon God to send victory to his army, or states that he is the instrument of the Most High, he is wholly unmindful of the fact that God cannot do that which is contrary to His Own Essence—in other words, He cannot do a dishonourable thing.

The Imperial Chancellor, Von Bethmann-Hollweg, characterised the overrunning of Belgium as a wrongful act, but the Pan-German War Lords very soon brought him to account, and now some two months afterwards we find him, according to an article in the *Times*, trying to justify his country's indefensible action by inventing hypothetical situations and arguing from them. Such a method would be puerile in a far less educated man than an Imperial Chancellor.

But if paper value is only real value when you choose to so regard it, what in German economics is permanent, settled value? Mines and fields and factories, ships and workshops and livestock. True, but not the whole truth. They are valuable only in time of peace, in war time only so long as they are beyond the range of conquest. Thus Nietzsche's doctrine finds acceptance, for Might becomes absolute value. Might which begets tyranny and oppression and ends in slavery and suppression, mental, moral, physical.

All that Germany possesses she has gained by hard fighting. She has always subdued where she has conquered. She has barbarously compelled

obedience. Force—blood and iron—with never a question of right or wrong.* Bismarck's sneering remarks about England's pretty phrases respecting humanity had no part in the culture of Pan-Germanism. No doubt by the magnitude of their armies these Apostles of the New Faith believe they possess the power to stem the progress of human thought as they think they can retard the advance of Civilisation and all that it stands for.

It should not be forgotten that in waging this war we, with our brave allies, are fighting for civilisation just as German and Prussian militarism is "hacking its way" through Europe in the interests of savagery. Therefore we are fighting the cause of German and Austrian people as well as that of every other nation under the sun. For this "culture," driven to its logical conclusion, amounts to this: If a man does not conform to any code of morals or recognise any system of ethics unless it suits his purpose, and if the higher law does not exact compliance or penalise infractions, there is nothing wrong for a physically strong man to break into his neighbour's house, rob him of his goods and property, and put him and his family to death by any method he chooses. It is merely the triumph of Might; it is

* "How can the Germans be expected to believe that the fruits of peace are greater than those of war? Is not the very existence of Imperial Germany due to war? Could it conceivably have been created by anything else? Will anything less preserve it? They (the Germans) deny the validity of any particular set of ethical notions of right and wrong to decide issues vital to the continued existence of the Germanic race."—"Pan-Germanism," by Roland G. Usher, pp. 13-14.

therefore Right—as Nietzsche would say—because the victim was not sufficiently strong to repel the aggressor. It would be an illustration of the Darwinian theory, the survival of the fittest; the brute was the fittest because he chanced to survive.

That is the Philosophy which would be enforced over here if Great Britain formed an integral part of German Europe. Try and imagine what it would mean, never forgetting the various grades of Might, as now being exemplified on the battlefield, from Crown Prince and Prussian Officer to their obedient albeit dissolute and drunken soldiery.

Truly the cause is just. We are fighting for the acquisition of neither land nor territory. We seek neither concession nor privilege. We are not fighting out of revenge, hatred or malice. We are fighting for something that is real and tangible, something more solid than any material thing which can be measured by a foot rule or weighed by avoirdupois or even purchased with good British gold—something which stands for character, integrity, religion, justice, freedom, civilisation—the only enduring asset an Empire possesses—its national honour.

But though we began the fight with a single object, we must perforce continue and end it for other reasons now. To our enemy, honour counts for naught. Germany is fighting us for our wealth, our commerce, our industries, for our land, our colonies, all our Over-Sea Dominions—our Empire—and to such lengths will she go that even our liberties and our very lives are at stake.

What did little Belgium say and do when her honour was impugned, and she was threatened with

the German inexorable law of Might? How did she behave? This second-rate Power had not even mobilised. What need was there when the Great Powers had solemnly and deliberately guaranteed security from invasion? She had not an enormous army or a powerful navy or a big fleet of aircraft. Belgium was simply a quiet, law abiding, little kingdom at peace with all the world. She had no ambitions of territorial aggrandisement, has not even now. Neither had she any domestic or political quarrel at home giving anyone the right to intervene. What did she say when asked to allow her treaty to be set at nought? Oh, think of it, ye who read these lines! Ponder over it after you have lain aside this pamphlet. Belgium said and did the noblest, bravest things that man or nation could possibly say or do. Her King, her statesmen, her soldiers, reiterated, in effect, of their country, the well-known couplet of Lovelace:

"I should not love thee, dear, so much,
Loved I not honour more."

With a contempt and contumely worthy of her high estate, she scorned the arrogant boasting tyrant. Armies of ruthless invaders were utterly annihilated at Liège, battalions of men more in number than those who fell at Waterloo—and all by, comparatively speaking, a mere handful of soldiers, thrice-armed in their just quarrel. She resisted, as she is doing now, as she will do to the end, with all the strength she possesses, the dastardly attempts to dispossess her of liberty and honour. Belgium, in very truth, is adding lustre to her valiant race, and covering herself with a glory unequalled in the his-

tory of war. Liège struck a chord in the heart of the civilised world which will vibrate until the end of time. Monarchs laid their grateful tributes at the shrine of that little Belgian town which gained for itself an everlasting name.

I asked you to ponder over this. Let me now ask you to think what might have happened had the Belgian monarch and his ministers permitted powerful foreign troops bent on active warfare to thread their way through their placid streets.

London might have been sacked and pillaged, the German flag waving over Buckingham Palace, and Great Britain incorporated in German Europe.

I did not write these last few lines, hastily or without considering the whole circumstances and all that has yet happened so far as the public has been permitted to learn. I am neither an alarmist nor a scaremonger. I know the strength of the British Navy, but it is not ubiquitous. I know, too, something of the strength of our defences and fortifications. For over three years I have been abroad in France and Belgium and Germany, having visited many of the places now making history, and have learnt several things regarding the hopes and fears of individuals and the ambitions of nations. And I do not think I am over-estimating when I assert that the glorious action of heroic Belgium has so far saved Great Britain from invasion. Yes, Belgium stood at the threshold and effectively barred the way of the modern Huns, frustrated the deep-laid scheme in the preparation of which all things political, strategic, military and economic, have for countless years been subjugated—the Conquest of Europe. Well

might Belgium say, slightly altering Kipling's words, "If blood be the price of honour, Lord God we ha' paid it in full."

Suppose Germany had not violated Belgian neutrality, and had gone the legitimate way to work. She would have suffered no set-back. None of the Belgian forts would have been turned on her. She would have had no Belgian army to contend with. Suppose, still further, that Great Britain had held aloof as she did in 1870. We have seen how near the enemy approached the gates of Paris, almost within a stone's throw, *after* almost overwhelming difficulties, *after* terrible losses at Liège and in other Belgian towns, *after* considerable delays, and with Belgian, French and British forces stubbornly contesting every inch of the ground. What would have happened if Germany had been able to hurl all her might against half-mobilised France alone, without having encountered any of the serious drawbacks to which I have just referred? It is not difficult to conjecture.

As one of Germany's military writers, commenting on the First Lord of the Admiralty's "ship-building holiday" speech recently wrote: "We respect Great Britain's *rapprochements*, but we shall strike when we are ready."

The Belgian soldier never thought of what was in store for him; the majority of them had never before been under fire. He heard his country's call and wherever he was, hundreds or thousands of miles away, he hurried to the fore. Is your patriotism less than the Belgian's love for his country? I know your hesitation is not due to fear—what Britisher was

ever yet afraid? Is it due to pounds, shillings and pence? Surely not. The cartoons in the German and Austrian Press, though they depict the Russian staying away on account of his precious Vodka, portray the Britisher squatting on a chair, with his feet upon the table, holding back till he knows how much he is going to be paid for his work.

This is not a capitalists' war. No man will purchase a princely estate through the blood that is shed on the fields of Belgium or France; no woman robe herself with priceless furs out of the hunger of workless men and women. It is in every sense a people's war.

The only compensation in store for those who cannot fight is the knowledge that they have done or tried to do something. What stands in your way? You may be doing most excellent work at the present time in commercial or industrial undertakings; you may be contributing finely to the brilliance of legal, scientific, medical or artistic attainments; you may be rendering valuable assistance in a variety of ways. But I ask you, whether you work in dock, factory, or wharf, warehouse, office or shop, by rail or river, on field or farm, in mine or upon the hillside, whether you be clerk, mechanic or artisan, labouring man or man of leisure, if you really think your present work of such vital importance as to prevent you, if you are eligible, from answering Britain's call to arms?

Is it nothing to you that Great Britain, the land of our fathers, has awakened as from a long-drawn sleep, out of her dream of a land of peace to find the enemy knocking at her gates, breathing out the

very fires of rapine and murder, with the lust of blood in his eyes and the scourge of Satan within his grasp?

She has awakened, truly. But it is not the Britain Germany knew, not even the Britain we knew. But it is the Britain that Drake knew, that Wellington knew, that Nelson knew. When our country awoke to her sense of imminent peril, internal discord ceased, harmony was established, political wrangles vanished, dissensions, differences, bitterness sank fathoms deep into the bowels of the earth. There was only one party in the State—the All-for-Britain party. Britons everywhere, thunder-struck and tempest-tossed by the hurricane of events, rose majestic above the storm, a mighty invincible phalanx four square to the winds of adversity, revealing a strength and solidarity as impregnable and invulnerable as the spirit of the God which bound and held it together.

Here was an unexpected contingency for which no safeguard was provided in the Pan-Germanic scheme. For Germany's readiness did not merely mean her preparedness; it involved Great Britain's unpreparedness, too, for Germany has always hoped to gain more through her enemy's weakness than by her own inherent strength. The case for Britain as presented to the Kaiser by his War Lords was anything but a strong one. He was told there was bound to be civil war in Ireland; that one-fourth of the population was well-armed, well generalled, eager and ready to fight the remaining promiscuous three-fourths. He was also notified

that each party had sympathisers in England who would support their particular faction by force of arms if necessary. He well knew the heads of each party in the State were hurling bitter invective and fierce recrimination at one another's heads, and amid all this passionate outburst and heated turmoil there would be an election, as revolutionary in character as it could be Empire-shattering politically. Troops would be called out, but for offensive purposes the British had no army. They had one on paper, but the other party of the State, the one which didn't invent it, threw the documents in which it was recorded in the fire of controversy, and, as was said after the collapse of the last of the ten little nigger boys, "then there was none." Then Lord Kitchener was away, Lord Roberts' efforts in aid of national service had fallen to the ground. There were no strong men in Parliament, certainly none out of it. The Foreign Minister was born in peace, wedded to it by every sacred tie; he would not suffer himself to be divorced by members of his own or the opposite party. Even if he did, would not half the populace—merchants, shopkeepers and bagmen—become pro-German, just as a few years before they were pro-Boer?

And beyond Great Britain, was not the handwriting already upon the wall inscribed by the provocative agents of those world-forces—Pan-Germanism and Pan-Islam? The Over-seas Dominions would rise in revolt and disown the Mother Country, although the probability would be that Canada would claim her own independence or maybe come to terms with the United States, which would then

throw off the British Alliance yet unconsummated. The Colonies would go by the board. The Boers would retake their lost territory, the Egyptians occupy Egypt, and the vast Mahommedan population seize India.

Thus Britain, so far from presenting serious difficulties, short of her powerful Navy, was in reality affording Germany facilities by internal discord at home and by unrest abroad, for the immediate realisation of her ambitious scheme. But immediate it must be because the Little Navy party had ingloriously failed, and in a few more years the British Fleet would be invincible. No, Great Britain durst not take the offensive just yet.

So the Day dawned—*Zum Tag*—the psychological moment for Germany had arrived. A *casus belli*—the Servian agitation—was seized upon, if it was not, as already suggested on the strength of a parallel case, actually “made in Germany.”

Let me try and reconstruct the plan of campaign most likely to correspond with the original now in the Imperial pocket, or pigeon-holed in the desk of the General Staff.

Having vanquished France and conquered Russia, Holland and Denmark would have shared the geographical fate of Belgium. Norway and Sweden would have been invaded. This would have secured an uninterrupted seaboard from St. Petersburg—Petrograd as it now is—to Brest, as far as Biarritz, if necessary. The wresting of the Baltic from Russia would prove exceedingly valuable. Then there would be the forts of Königsberg and Dantzic—the

Skager Rak and Kattegat as bye-ways—the Kiel Canal, protected by Heligoland, which we foolishly ceded for a few acres in Zanzibar, the North Sea, or German Ocean, as the Teutons prefer to call it; all the big forts along the shores of the Netherlands and Belgium; the Straits of Dover, the key to the English Channel; the entire coast of Northern France from Calais to Brest, commanding the stretch of shore from Lands End to Dover, in addition to the Western coast of France.

So far for German preliminaries. Now as to Austria. There is a military road to Vienna which runs through Switzerland, and half of the Swiss are either German or Austrian by descent. The seizure, therefore, of the little Republic would have presented no serious difficulty. The Balkan States, though outwardly independent, are all more or less controlled by or somehow under the influence of Germany or Austria, or both. They could quickly have been reduced to subjection if they did not knuckle under at once. Italy, whose allegiance under any eventuality was never for a moment in doubt, would have been given work as the exigencies of the moment necessitated.

Then for the *pièce de resistance*. The great German Navy, and the captured French Fleet, together with the Navies of Austria and Italy, would undoubtedly have swarmed simultaneously on our Southern and Eastern coasts, churning the oceans to yeast, a hundred submarines torpedoing death and destruction in Channel and Northern Sea, the skies darkened by a thousand aircraft.

But do not let it be thought for one moment that because the Prussian plan of campaign has so far failed owing to the action of Belgium and secession of Italy that it will not be, or is not being, remodelled and reconstructed. For now it is for the German Empire, as indeed, it is with us, a matter of life and death. Neither belligerent can go back without being dismembered, disintegrated, ruined, nationally and imperially. Saturated with the despicable sophistries of Nietzsche, imbued with the callous doctrines of Bernhardi, those in authority have dismissed their true teachers like Goethe and Schiller, and are blindly groping in the darkness for a Bismarck or a Napoleon to lead them on their career of ruin and destruction.

The Kaiser has registered a vow that not until the last soldier is dead will he relinquish the task he has set himself and his soldiers to accomplish, and no doubt partly owing to the egregious campaign of falsehood that has been promulgated in Berlin, the German people are with him heart and soul. They are, nevertheless, aware that failure does not mean to them what it would mean to us. They know that victory for our Allies would stand for neither cruelty nor slavery—would mean freedom, enlightenment, sound government by the people, justice for all, and ultimate prosperity. Besides, the hated militarism is detested everywhere, tacitly, if not openly. Even Germans themselves, thousands of them, in one of our own Colonies, have contributed to its overthrow by raising money for our patriotic funds and telegraphed their sentiments to Lord Kitchener. But, as Madame de Staël has said, "the patriotism

of nations ought to be selfish," and naturally they will cling to their fatherland until the last vestige of hope has vanished.

Without Italy even—now—the enemy and her ally can bring against us, so far as can be ascertained, seven and a half millions of soldiers, 23 Dreadnoughts, 30 other battleships, 63 cruisers, 147 torpedo boat destroyers, 30 submarines, 23 airships, and no less than 600 aeroplanes and seaplanes, besides a war chest of £150,000,000.

Have I not said enough, shewn enough, explained enough, to prove that this Great War is not to be lightly regarded? It is the greatest event that has ever happened, will ever or can ever happen again. We have not fully realised it yet, but should half a dozen bombs burst over the City of London—which God forbid—it might furnish us with an inkling of what it would be if London were shelled, or burned. A violent storm in the North Sea or English Channel, when an 80-mile an hour gale is blowing or November fogs are about, and the enemy's submarines are actively searching the seas, might prove very disconcerting even to our powerful Fleet.

But if a mere handful of Belgians were able to retard Germany's advance, surely we, with all our eligible men, ought to be able to cripple her hopelessly on the territory she has invaded and in her own country and thus be able to capture her fleet. Therefore every "eligible" who refuses to answer Britain's battle-cry is voluntarily assisting the enemy, and becoming a valuable friend to Germany, however much he may resent the accusation.

Is it nothing to you that these powerful forces—forces of very hell as vivid photographs, lurid descriptions and sworn testimonies have conclusively demonstrated—have only one real objective, to place us in a bondage baser than that of the old-time galley slave, to make those of us who survive sink to a state of existence lower than that of the beasts of the field, more contemptible than any creeping thing? For those of us who survived would only be those who stood silently, passively, by whilst their dear ones were brutally butchered or hacked to pieces in a slaughter house they once called by the sacred name of “home.”

There is no need to go into the hideous cruelties and countless desecrations, the hitherto unheard-of barbarities and atrocities which took place at Louvain, Senlis, Termonde, Malines, Rheims, Aerschot, Albert, and places too numerous even to mention. But if such pitiless massacre—mostly Belgium’s martyrdom—was vented on tens of thousands of unoffending citizens, wholly without provocation, what would happen to us, Britishers, to our fathers and mothers, our wives, sisters, daughters and children, after we had shot down by perfectly legitimate means in open warfare, thousands of the German invaders?

Surely it is something to you—son of the Empire, proud citizen of Britain. You to whom God has given health and strength, and perhaps endowed with that greatest of all gifts, the true, unselfish love of a good woman. I know that you would not fall down and kneel before the myrmidons of the Arch-

Tyrant of the Universe whilst your comrades defended our womenfolk and little ones. In that dark hour you would do your duty.

Why, then, sit scribbling at your desk or tossing hay into a rick, or corn into a barn? Why let the shop counter bar your way to the fair fields of France, to the plains of Belgium? The trenches are broad and deep, and contain the flower of British manhood, the pride and envy of the world; there is a place there ready, waiting for you.

Lay down your pen, yours tools of steel or iron, and pick up the implements of war. Discard your work-a-day jacket for the true mail of khaki. The whizz and whirr of machinery, the buzz of the dynamo, the belching flame of forge or engine, the clang of mammoth hammer are not matters of life and death like they are in the land of the Gaul.

And you, who have nothing to do, who gaze listlessly from the window of your flat or club or hotel, or wander idly through the streets of city or village, what have you to say? The common ant of the field is no sluggard. He works, he fights, he helps to drag the malefactor to justice and condign punishment in his own puny insect world. Are you not better than he? You, least of all, will not fail in the hour of danger. You will hearken unto the cry. Though you have no work at your hand, it is waiting for you not far across the sea.

Who is entitled to share in the joy of victory when happy tidings reach these shores? Has anyone a right to feel a thrill of pleasure, to glow with pride

and rapture at Belgian or British successes, at French or Russian triumphs, if he has stood aside when the bugle has sounded, when he has stayed at home when others have gone where Duty called?

“It’s a long, long way to Tipperary,” but there’s a short, short cut to Berlin. The road lies not through the region of Dreamland; it leads through the stern reality of your living self. Every man who goes to the front shortens that road, and therefore lessens the time before the Allied troops march through Unter den Linden, the highway of the German capital. Every man who values his present work or no-work more than he prizes the honour and welfare of his country shortens the road too, not for the Allies, but for the Germans, not to Berlin, but to the fair gates of our beloved isle.

What are you waiting for? Canada heard the call and came forth with tens of thousands of loyal soldiers and with her golden wheat in a million bags. Australia and New Zealand have responded, the sunny plains of Africa have given of their best. Egypt, immediately she heard it, stretched forth her hands. From the eternal snows of the giant Himalayas to Ceylon’s fertile isle, India’s love and devotion have known no bounds. She has furnished 70,000 warriors, promising 700,000, even 7,000,000 if needed: she has given raiment and specie too. From oversea and overland has the responsive chorus rung: “We will fight for the honour of the Empire.”

The land of Britain is as full of self-denial and self-sacrifice as the ground of France and Belgium

is covered with deeds of bravery and heroism. The devotion of women everywhere in attending the sick and suffering at home and abroad, in making garments and giving alms, in helping workless mothers, and feeding children, women who are bearing the loss of dear ones with strength and fortitude elevating to behold, has sanctified our cause as the blood of heroes and martyrs has consecrated it.

Courage! Courage! Tarry no longer. May-be you gave no serious heed before to your country's call; may be you did not clearly understand it, or if you did, you failed to grasp its inner and spiritual meaning.

Turn your face to the South. What do you hear? Nothing but the deafening thunder of howitzer and siege gun, the ear-piercing shriek of screaming shell or bursting shrapnel, the tramp of armed men or the clash of glittering steel, or Mother Earth heaving her mighty bosom as if in the death throes of mortal agony.

Listen again. Above all that din and pandemonium, above that volcano of ravaging flame and surging tumult, can you not hear a plaintive cry like that of Macedonia of old—distant and faint—yet growing louder as you listen—its tones of pathos and tenderness swelling into chords sublime and full of grandeur:—It is the music, the melody of the One Clear Call.

One Day's Income.

There may be several readers of this little pamphlet who cannot join the colours. Yet everyone can do something towards securing recruits for the King's Army.

The Voluntary Recruiting League is entirely unsupported by private subscriptions or public money and is at present carried on at a heavy loss.

We are therefore relying on the generous co-operation of readers to enable us to circulate hundreds and thousands of copies throughout the entire British Isles—in places where our representatives think they are most likely to secure recruits.

May we ask you, if you approve the principles laid down in this brochure, to surrender one day's income towards the common cause.

You will then have done something—a great deal—towards emptying trenches and hospital beds, and preventing them ever being needed again. You will be ensuring the return of the soldier—the breadwinner in the new army—and very materially hastening the day when all that France and Belgium have lost shall be restored or fully compensated.

One three-hundred-and-sixty-fifth part of what you earned or received last year. Is it too much to ask? Our Founder has surrendered the whole of his income to the Voluntary Recruiting League, and will continue to do so until the welcome fiat is issued from the War Office—No more recruits needed.

One Day's Income might mean very much to you, but it would mean very much more to the Nation.

Copies of this pamphlet can be obtained from the Voluntary Recruiting League, Empire House, Piccadilly, W., at the following prices, carriage paid or post free:

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VOLUNTARY RECRUITING LEAGUE.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

has expressed Her fullest sympathy with the Objects of the League.

HER MAJESTY QUEEN ALEXANDRA

has assured us of Her sincere interest in the aims and objects of our patriotic movement.

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A Few Opinions of "One Clear Call."

"The Private Secretary is commanded by **The King** to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Henry Allen Ashton's letter, with the accompanying copy of 'ONE CLEAR CALL.'"

"I am desired by the **Prince of Wales** to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 27th inst., enclosing a copy of your pamphlet, 'ONE CLEAR CALL,' and to express His Royal Highness's thanks for same.

"His Royal Highness is pleased to note that the entire profits of the sale of the pamphlet will be devoted to the furtherance of recruiting.

His Excellency the French Ambassador.

"M. PAUL CAMBON has read your pamphlet with great interest, and approves of it entirely."

His Excellency the Japanese Ambassador.

"I entirely sympathise with the work which you are undertaking, and hope your efforts will meet with the success they deserve."

His Excellency the Russian Ambassador.

"COUNT BENCKENDORFF has read your pamphlet with great interest, and firmly believes that the patriotic feelings expressed therein will do much to promote the success of movement."

His Excellency the Belgian Minister.

"COMTE DE LALAING has been much interested by your book 'ONE CLEAR CALL,' and believes it will be most useful in fostering recruiting in this country."

Lady French (Wife of Field-Marshal Sir John French, G.C.V.O., K.C.M.G., A.D.C., Commanding British Expeditionary Force).

"LADY FRENCH wishes to thank Mr. Ashton for so kindly sending her his most interesting book which states the case for England so clearly and concisely, and which should go far towards encouraging people to join the colours."

"The Lord Mayor has read 'ONE CLEAR CALL,' in which the incentives to recruiting are so admirably indicated. He feels sure the pamphlet will be of great use in that direction."

His Grace the Duke of Argyll.

"I write a few brief lines to thank you for your admirable pamphlet, 'ONE CLEAR CALL.' I hope it will have as great a sale as it deserves."

Right. Hon. the Lord Desborough.

"I have read your 'ONE CLEAR CALL' with much interest, and feel sure that it will do much to further the cause for which it was written."

Very Rev. the Dean of Westminster (Bishop Ryle, D.D.).

"I trust it ('ONE CLEAR CALL') will receive attention, and elicit a swift and enthusiastic response."

Lieut.-General Sir R. S. S. Baden-Powell, K.C.B., K.C.V.O., LL.D., F.R.G.S., &c.

"SIR ROBERT BADEN-POWELL has read your pamphlet with great interest."

**Admiral the Hon. Sir E. R. Fremantle, G.C.B.,
C.M.G., &c., the Great Naval Writer and
Expert.**

"I have read your pamphlet with interest, and I trust that it will be of use in helping recruiting. The danger of the War to this country is even now only dimly appreciated. . . . I firmly believe that had we not gone in with France and Russia as we have done, the sacking and pillaging to which you refer would have been only a question of time. We are not really doing enough now. In 1805, I believe we had about 1,300,000 men in arms: we ought to have three or four millions now."

**Rt. Hon. J. A. Pease, P.C., M.P., President of the
Board of Education, writing from Whitehall.**

"Mr. PEASE has read your pamphlet with much interest. He feels sure that it will do much to promote the success of the movement which you are so patriotically supporting."

Sir William Ramsay, K.C.B., F.R.S.

"It ('ONE CLEAR CALL') is well written and I hope it will have all the good effect desired . . . six months ago we started drilling on our own account, and I put up a little rifle range. We have had about 45 men, of whom 10 have joined the colours. Some more may join, but there are not many more 'eligibles,' though of course, everyone can do something. The idea was that in case of a demand for universal service our men would not have to begin at the beginning but would have had at least some training. By giving some small prizes for Shooting the interest has been much increased. Perhaps our little attempt might encourage others to do something similar."

Sir J. D. McClure, LL.D., Mus. Doc., Kt., (one of the ablest of living Head-masters).

"I have been greatly impressed by the pamphlet. I need hardly assure you that I am in the fullest sympathy with your object, and, should you require it, I will gladly make a contribution to the Cost of Circulating your appeal."

Sir Gilbert Parker, M.P.

"I have read your little pamphlet 'ONE CLEAR CALL. It contains much that is useful, while all of it is pertinent and instructive. Some of the references are significant and striking."

W. Joynson Hicks, Esq., M.P., Chairman of Automobile Association and Motor Union.

"I have read with much interest your pamphlet, 'ONE CLEAR CALL,' and trust that you will be able to circulate it largely. To me it is a clear and convincing statement, not merely of the obligation of honour to defend the Belgian 'Scrap of Paper,' but what is equally important, the necessity of fighting for our very lives."

Rudyard Kipling.

"Mr. Kipling asks me to thank you for sending him a copy of 'ONE CLEAR CALL,' which has interested him greatly."

George Cave, Esq., K.C., M.P.

"It is an admirable and striking pamphlet, and I hope that it may be widely read."

Sir Arthur Pinero.

"I have read 'ONE CLEAR CALL.' I think the case is admirably stated, and that the pamphlet should be of great service at the present time."

**Rt. Hon. the Earl of Kintore, G.C.M.G., P.C.,
A.D.C.**

"Anything that I can do to help in enlarging the circulation of your pamphlet, 'ONE CLEAR CALL,' will be very gladly done, as I have never read any statement of the Nation's case which is more admirable. It would be impossible to find one. I certainly hope it will be a powerful aid for recruiting."

Rt. Hon. the Earl of Meath, P.C., K.P.

"If in a few weeks no adequate response is made to your, and similar appeals, it will be necessary to drive into the ranks . . . all those whose intelligence and patriotism are so lacking as not to perceive that it is to their interest, as well as their duty to serve their country in this its dire hours of need. Hoping that your booklet may have a large circulation."

Rt. Hon. the Earl of Clarendon, G.C.B. & G.C.V.O.

"I have read 'ONE CLEAR CALL' with great interest, and will pass it on. As far as this district (Watford) is concerned, recruiting has been quite satisfactory, though, perhaps the circulation of 'ONE CLEAR CALL' may induce more to come forward."

Admiral Lord Charles Beresford, G.C.B.

"I think your book, 'ONE CLEAR CALL,' is most interesting, and should do a great deal of good to help recruiting. The Fleet having secured the passage of our food and raw material has led the people to believe that this is only an ordinary war; they have not really awakened yet to the grave danger, which we are in. WE ARE REALLY FIGHTING FOR LIFE OR DEATH.

"We want men as soon as we can get them in order to train them, and render them fit to go in the firing line."

Lt. Col. the Viscount Ridley.

"I hope it ('ONE CLEAR CALL'), will be widely read, for a large proportion of our population are still too comfortable to realize their danger, and the imperative need of the, call to arms."

Rt. Hon. Sir Edward Carson, K.C., M.P.

"'ONE CLEAR CALL' is short, concise and clear, and should do much to achieve the purpose for which it was written—to get more and still more men for the Army. I think it is an excellent production."

Major, Sir Ronald Ross, K.C.B., F.R.S., F.R.C.S., M.D., LL.D., D.Sc.

"I cordially approve of your excellent little pamphlet, entitled, 'ONE CLEAR CALL.' The principles expressed are sound, and I only regret that the British nation still requires to be awakened on these points, in spite of their recent experiences."

The late General T. Kelly Kenny.

"If eloquent reasoning could fill up the gaps in our ranks your pamphlet would be of much use."

The Poet Laureate.

"I have read your pamphlet, 'ONE CLEAR CALL,' and I think that its general statement of the situation is just and without exaggeration."

Rt. Rev. the Dean of Manchester (Bishop J. E. C. WELLDON).

"It ('ONE CLEAR CALL') seems to me to put in clear and cogent language the irrefutable case of Great Britain in the present war. I hold that every man who is not disqualified by age or by health, or special circumstances, from serving his country at the front, ought now to join the Colours, and I shall be truly glad if your pamphlet brings many recruits to the cause of National safety and honour."

Sir William Osler, Bart.

(Regius Professor of Medicine, Oxford).

"Thank you so much for "ONE CLEAR CALL," which is splendid."

Charles Ed. Jerningham, Esq., J.P.

"Thank you very much for having sent to me your interesting pamphlet. It is earnestly to be hoped that it will make English men and English women understand the extreme gravity of the present situation. The War is the greatest catastrophe there has been since the Flood. It is the second Deluge."

William Baker, Esq., M.A., LL.B.

"I have read the pamphlet with much interest. I feel that it constitutes a strong appeal to the young manhood of our country, and I join with other friends in expressing the hope that it may attain to a large circulation."

Israel Zangwill.

"I have read 'ONE CLEAR CALL,' and I feel sure that if I had been young enough I should not have been able to resist it."

Louis N. Parker.

"I have read your admirable pamphlet, 'ONE CLEAR CALL,' with deep interest. To my sorrow I am one of the 'unfits,' but had I been fit, but hanging back, your words would certainly have stirred me to action. I earnestly hope your pamphlet will reach vast numbers, and give them a better understanding of what is at stake."

R. Walker Essex, Esq., M.P.

"I congratulate you upon the vigour and pungency of your 'ONE CLEAR CALL.' Every recruit ought to have his pockets filled with them."

Arthur Fell, Esq., M.P.

"I have read your pamphlet, 'ONE CLEAR CALL,' and I think it the best pamphlet on the snbject that has been published."

Sir James Crichton Browne, M.D., LL.D., F.R.S.

"'ONE CLEAR CALL'" forcibly and succinctly sets forth the obligation resting upon all of us at this supreme moment in our country's history. It is the bounden duty of all of us to 'be up and doing, with a heart for any fate,' and your appeal is calculated to bring home that duty to those who have not yet fully realized it."

Waldorf Astor, Esq., M.P.

"I have read your pamphlet, and am sure it will be of great help in stimulating recruiting."

Sir Frederick Bridge, C.V.O.

"I have read your pamphlet with great interest, and think it will be of great national service, especially in rural districts where, perhaps, the great newspapers are not widely read."

Edward Goulding, Esq., M.P.

"'ONE CLEAR CALL' is well written, and instructive. It should have a good sale."

Sir Charles Wyndham.

"Very many thanks for your pamphlet. It makes very good reading on all points discussed in the past troublesome days! Wish you every success with it."

W. H. Lever, Esq., M.P.

"Such efforts as yours to stimulate interest in recruiting, and to obtain recruits, are of the utmost value at the present moment, and I wish you every success."

James Boyton, Esq., M.P.

"Your 'ONE CLEAR CALL' should certainly demand and receive 'ONE CLEAR ANSWER.'"

Sir Henry Craik, M.P.

"Your pamphlet is, I think, admirably fitted to stimulate enthusiasm, and foster recruiting."

Arthur Collins.

"I certainly think it should go far towards stimulating the recruiting of which we are so much in need."

The Headmaster of Eton (Canon Lyttelton).

"I have looked at your pamphlet again and think it is extremely likely to be effective as an appeal to the half-hearted. I wish it every success, as also to your praiseworthy efforts in the cause of recruiting."

A. E. W. Mason (one of the favourite novelists of the day).

"I have read your pamphlet 'ONE CLEAR CALL,' and can heartily endorse it. It gives a short clear account of the origin of this war and of the consequences which would befall our country if it were to be defeated. These only require to be realised in order to bring all the young men who are needed into the fighting line, but at present they are not realised."

Sir W. B. Richmond, R.A.

To Footballers: "If we lose in this just war England will be the ball and the Germans will be the kickers. The audience will be Europe! Do you like that idea, young men of England? Fight for your Game, don't give it away to Barbarians. This is my message: Your 'ONE CLEAR CALL' is admirable."

Rowland E. Prothero, Esq., M.V.O. (Editor of the 'Quarterly Review.')

"I hope that 'ONE CLEAR CALL' will be widely read. It is a telling presentment of the facts and should make a strong appeal to all young men who are capable of giving naval or military service."

Rt. Hon. the Marquis of Lincolnshire, K.G., P.C., G.C.M.G.

"I have read 'ONE CLEAR CALL' with much interest. It should have a great effect."

Sir Frederick G. Kenyon (Director and Principal Librarian, British Museum).

"It is an effective statement of the British case and should be a real help to the cause of recruiting."

Sir John Kirk.

"Sir John Kirk has read the powerful and stirring appeal in the 'One Clear Call.' He has always been in intense sympathy with movements for International Peace and hates war as a barbarous means of settling disputes between Governments. But in this present crisis our Empire being involved in this vast struggle for the rights and liberties of civilization there is no course open to us but to win through at all costs, and for this every man's help is needed most urgently."

The Editor and Proprietor of the 'Spectator'
(John St. Lee Strachey, Esq.)

"I think your stirring pamphlet should prove most useful in recruiting. I am certain that you are right in concentrating your efforts upon obtaining recruits. More men—more men—more men—is the need of the hour."

Coulson Kernahan, Esq.

"I have read it carefully and congratulate you on a most sane and faithful statement of the case as between us and Germany. The patriotic appeal is earnestly and convincingly made and the booklet should be of the greatest assistance to recruiting. You have done good and true service to your King and Country by publishing it."

Admiral of the Fleet, Sir Edward Seymour.

"I am greatly interested by your 'One Clear Call.' It tells much in few words, and voices plainly the great need of to-day, viz., Enlistment. The general public require to be made 'wake up.'"

Rev. W. L. Watkinson, D.D., ex-President of the Wesleyan Conference.

"I cordially agree with 'One Clear Call.' Our nation is not yet alive to the serious significance of the great struggle but this is a wide method to awake the common consciousness and to arouse our manhood to meet the crisis."

Sir James H. Yoxall, M.P.

"Your 'One Clear Call' is admirable, and will, I am sure, be very useful for its purpose."

Professor A. H. Sayce, of Oxford University.

"Many thanks for your most excellent pamphlet 'One Clear Call.' I hope it will be widely read and digested. It ought to have a marked effect upon the younger men of the country."

Professor W. M. Flinders Petrie, of University College, London.

"I much obliged for your stirring pamphlet and hope that it will have the needful effect. We have to make it plain that efficient men *must* fight one way or another. If they won't fight in France, they will have to fight in England; and if they do not fight there they will still have to fight as the conscripts of Germany. Anyway, they must fight, there is no way out of it."

Sir Robert Perks, Bart.

"I hope thousands of Nonconformists will read your 'One Clear Call.' Right nobly did our forefathers fight for England and liberty in Cromwell's days, but they are needed now as much as then."

Sir Henry J. Wood.

"Thank you for sending me a copy of your pamphlet 'One Clear Call,' which I have read with much interest. I hope it will have the success it deserves."

**Headmaster of Perse School House, Glebe Road,
Cambridge (W. H. D. Rouse, Litt. D., M.A.,
M.R.A.S., F.R.G.S.)**

"I think 'ONE CLEAR CALL' is a good appeal, intelligently put. My only regret is that you have not another clear call for politicians. It is the cowardice of politicians of both parties which is the cause of our present difficulties."

C. W. Saleeby, Esq., M.D., F.R.S., F.Z.S.

"Indeed, I admire the manner and substance of 'One Clear Call' and wish it and you all success in obtaining more men to fight for friends and freedom."

Sir Sidney Lee (Editor, 'Dictionary of National Biography.)

"I have read your pamphlet 'One Clear Call' with much appreciation. I think it is admirably adapted to its purpose and ought to stimulate recruiting wherever it circulates."

Headmaster of the Leys School, Cambridge (Rev. W. T. A. Barber, M.A., D.D.)

"I have read 'ONE CLEAR CALL.' It is entirely true, absolutely convincing, overpoweringly compelling. Get its appeal into the brain and heart of young England, and our ranks will be filled in a month."

Baroness Orczy ('The Scarlet Pimpernel,' etc.)

"I have read your pamphlet, 'ONE CLEAR CALL,' with the greatest interest. It is an earnest and ardent appeal that cannot fail to reach the hearts of those for whom it is intended."

Arthur Henderson, Esq., M.P. (Chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party.)

"As its title indicates, it is a call to our young manhood that is most clear and imperative. It should assist them to realise that the essential and paramount need of our country is men, and still more men, until Lord Kitchener is convinced that the Expeditionary Force is adequate to the satisfactory completion of the task in hand."

Admiral the Hon. V. A. Montague, C.B.

"I have read 'ONE CLEAR CALL' with much interest."

H. Pike Pease, D.L., J.P., M.P.

"Your pamphlet is excellent. I wish everyone could read it."

The Headmaster, The College, Winchester (M. T. Rendall, M.A.)

"Your vigorous pamphlet is unanswerable . . . every week that passes makes the call clearer and louder. Just because Germany has shown herself stubborn and resourceful, as well as unscrupulous, England needs *every man who can be spared* to secure her victory."

Col. the Rt. Hon. Sir J. West Ridgway, P.C., G.C.B. G.C.M.G., K.C.S.I.

"I have read 'ONE CLEAR CALL' with much interest, and hope that it will effect the object you have so much at heart."

Rt. Hon. the Lord Edmund Talbot, M.V.O., D.S.O., M.P.

"I think it ('One Clear Call') ought to have considerable effect on stimulating recruiting amongst those who may be hesitating and do not understand the situation."

Admiral J. Moeresby.

"The perusal of your brochure, 'One Clear Call,' at such a crisis in our National existence as the present, is only less deplorable than necessary . . . it is for those who know to second your efforts to instruct ignorance, and I beg to enclose a small donation to help your valuable work."

Rt. Rev. the Lord Bishop of Truro.

"I hope that your pamphlet will do its work in persuading men to answer promptly to the 'ONE CLEAR CALL.'"

Harry Furniss.

"I have read your pamphlet with the greatest interest. I am glad to say my sons had not to wait to read it to serve their country. They are busy in the London Scottish."

Anthony Hope (Hawkins).

"I have read it ('ONE CLEAR CALL') with great interest. This instructive and stirring appeal should be very fruitful of the results at which you aim."

Sir Norman Lockyer, K.C.B.

"Your pamphlet is sure to do good; but much remains to do before we are as efficiently armed as we should be."

Lieut.-General the Hon. B. M. Ward, C.B.

"I have read your pamphlet, 'One Clear Call,' with much interest, and find the clear and full account it contains of the facts which led to this great war, and the strong reasons given for encouraging *all* ranks in support of recruiting, cannot be disputed."

Major-General Sir Alfred Edward Turner, K.C.B.

"I have read the 'One Clear Call' with the greatest satisfaction: the case could not have been put better. It is indeed here to speak out and cast aside velvet gloves. No terms of peace are possible with an arrogant, treacherous and blood-thirsty tyrant, whose army and navy have well earned their respective names of "Huns" and "Baby butchers." As Voltaire said: 'Ecrasez l'infame;' there is no alternative. Your pamphlet will be of great use to me at the numerous meetings I am attending, and I am very grateful to you for sending it to me."

**Major-General Sir L. V. Swaine, C.B., C.M.G.,
F.R.G.S.**

"Your pamphlet is excellent and should stir up all waverers to their sense of duty."

Vice-Admiral T. P. Walker.

"A well-sustained and powerful appeal, not only to reason, but to every feeling of patriotism, duty, and love of honour and freedom. May it carry conviction to the hearts of everyone who reads it."

Vice-Admiral C. Johnstone.

"I consider that your 'One Clear Call' is very interesting; sets out plainly the causes of the war, and encourages enlistment."

Admiral Sir W. R. Kennedy, G.C.B.

"Many thanks for your pamphlet 'One Clear Call. It is splendidly written and puts the case most clearly. I am sure your pamphlet will do much good and I wish it every success."

Lieut.-General B. L. Forster, R.A.

"I am of opinion that your pamphlet 'One Clear Call' is excellent and should certainly stimulate recruiting if only the eligible men can be brought to read, study, and take it to heart and act on it."

**Field-Marshal Sir Evelyn Wood, V.C., G.C.B.,
G.C.M.G., D.L., D.C.L.**

"I am obliged for your interesting pamphlet 'One Clear Call,' which will, I hope, be found useful in many districts where the population does not realise that on the result of this war will depend the continuance of not only our Empire, but also our liberties in the United Kingdom."

**Major-General Sir Desmond O'Callaghan,
K.C.V.O.**

"I have read 'One Clear Call' with very great interest, and think it quite the best stimulant to recruiting that has been published."

General Sir A. Gaselee, G.C.B., G.C.I.E.

"'One Clear Call' must make everyone, who is not already working his best for the national cause, think what more he or she can do. It clearly shows that the Briton's just duty is to carry this war to a successful issue. Men, armaments, money and organization are required without stint."

Major-General J. B. B. Dickson, C.B., C.M.G.

"Thank you for sending me the copy of 'One Clear Call,' which is excellent. If the people of England would be inclined to read it, I am sure it would have a very stimulating effect."

Major-General W. S. Hore, J.P.

"It is an excellent condensation of facts and should greatly help the cause for which it is written."

Vice-Admiral J. E. Blaxland.

"I think the pamphlet 'One Clear Call' states our position most accurately. It is most urgent that there should be no delay, as while we are in a state of war we are in face of dangers all round."

Lieut.-General B. N. V. Morton.

"Mr. H. A. Ashton's 'One Clear Call' is excellently written and well fitted to promote the good cause he has in view."

**Major-General Sir Ivor Herbert, Bart, C.B.,
C.M.G., J.P., M.P.**

"Sir Ivor Herbert has studied 'One Clear Call' with great attention. Its contents amply bear out its title."